



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Summary

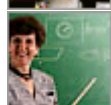
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ISSUE (QUARTER)

December 2009

March 2010

Release Date

11 December 2009

9 March 2010

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the September 2009 issue of Tasmanian Statistical News.

This issue features ABS assistance for COAG measurement, a report on the recent Community Indicators Summit, as well as a spotlight on the latest Tasmanian crime statistics.

It also continues to discuss aspects of statistical literacy, with the focus this issue on data awareness.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative, and we welcome your feedback and comments.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

What's New



WHAT'S NEW

From the Regional Director's desk
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FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S DESK...

Along with the Australian Statistician, the Tasmanian ABS Regional Director, Lisa Wardlaw-Kelly, recently joined an ABS delegation that participated in bilateral discussions on statistical issues with the Canadian Government. The itinerary included visits to Statistics Canada and the United States Agricultural Statistics Service to exchange information about the agricultural and environmental statistical programs conducted in these countries and discuss common challenges. The Australia-Canada bilateral meetings involved the chief statisticians from both countries and covered a range of strategic issues of relevance to both countries including factors affecting the conduct of Population Censuses, the Global Statistical System and opportunities for collaboration, and developing professional leadership in the context of the modern workforce.

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ABS ASSISTANCE FOR COAG MEASUREMENT

ABS is set to provide some assistance to the Tasmanian Government around Council of Australian Governments (COAG) measurement issues with a three month outposting to the

Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), commencing in early October 2009.

The COAG Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations is intended to improve the quality and effectiveness of the delivery of government services across a number of areas. New arrangements focus on delivery of specific outcomes in the community and performance indicators will be used to inform the community on how governments are progressing toward achieving the stated objectives, outcomes and outputs. As part of this, the COAG Reform Council (CRC) will report comparative performance information for all jurisdictions. These reports will focus on ensuring public accountability is realised through the timely production of clear, easy to read and useful reports analysing and assessing the performance of governments.

In Tasmania, the role of the outposted officer will primarily be to assist the Tasmanian Government in overcoming measurement issues associated with the reporting requirements for the Intergovernmental Agreement; Specific Purpose Payments; and National Partnerships. Within this, the outposting aims to:

- understand COAG measurement issues for Tasmania and the operating environment involved;
- understand and link with key players involved in COAG reporting across State agencies to ensure a collaborative approach to measurement issues;
- clarify deadlines and priorities for performance indicators;
- identify and prioritise areas for ABS assistance in the longer term.

Further information on this outposting can be obtained by contacting Ms Cassy Short at ABS (tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au), ph 03 6222 5803; or Mr John McCormick at DPAC (john.f.mccormick@dpac.tas.gov.au); ph 03 6232 7168.

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OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES FOR COMMUNITY INDICATORS

The topic of community-based indicators generated a lively discussion between government staff, academics and community workers at a recent Community Indicators Summit held in Brisbane on 22-23 July. Community-based indicators are becoming a hot topic as the global discussion around measuring well-being as more than just economics in society gains impetus.

Phillip Hoysted, from Tasmania Together, participated in the panel discussion on issues in using and developing community indicator frameworks. Phillip, along with panel members, Rick Williams, from Queensland Department of Communities, and Alice Thompson, from Infrastructure Australia, was able to share his perspective and give insight about the difficulties and challenges in creating workable frameworks in communities. Some of these challenges included targeting the right group and recognising the limits of these frameworks.

The Summit, hosted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), is also an important event for advancing the National Statistical Service. The Summit highlighted the benefits of having integrated information management methods and promoted a coordinated, coherent and consistent approach to the development of community indicators across Australia.

The Summit is just one of hundreds of initiatives being held around the world relating to measuring progress and well-being at international, national and sub-national levels. Outcomes from the Summit, including the Summit declaration prepared by delegates, will be presented as part of Australia's contribution to the 3rd OECD World Forum on 'Statistics,

Knowledge and Policy' to be held in Busan, Korea in October 2009.

The Summit [video presentations](#) are available through the NSS website. See www.nss.gov.au/communityindicators09 for more details.

If you would like more information on the Summit or future NSS events please email inquiries@nss.gov.au.

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THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE ADVISORY COUNCIL (DCAC) STRATEGIES PAPER

The Demographic Change Advisory Council (DCAC) is the key advisory body on demographic change issues that are likely to affect the Tasmanian community and economy over the coming years. The Council is made up of high-level representatives from government, business and community sectors, including the Tasmanian ABS Regional Director, Ms Lisa Wardlaw-Kelly (ex-officio member).

The role of the Council is to:

- research and analyse information and trends on demographic change issues;
- lead and influence the debate on demographic change issues and the possible strategies available to address these issues; and
- facilitate the sharing of information and research across relevant stakeholder groups within Tasmania.

DCAC have consulted widely on strategies that will address the demographic challenges and opportunities facing Tasmania. The Strategies Paper - **Demographic Change in Tasmania: Strategies for addressing challenges and opportunities** is available on the DCAC website: <http://www.dcac.tas.gov.au/>

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BUSY TIME FOR ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE BUSINESS STATISTICS CENTRE

The Environment and Agriculture Business Statistics Centre (BSC) is located within the ABS' Tasmanian Office. The BSC is responsible for collecting agricultural and environmental statistics from agricultural and other businesses throughout Australia.

Activity in the BSC increased recently with the engagement of extra staff to cope with the processing of returns for the annual Agriculture and Vineyards Surveys.

As well as this increased seasonal activity, the overall publication program has been increasing and keeping the Centre's staff very busy. During one week in August 2009, the Centre released three separate titles: [Stocks of Grain held by Bulk Grain Handlers, Australia](#) (cat. no. 7122.0.55.001), [Wheat Use and Stocks, Australia](#) (cat. no. 7307.0) and [Monthly Livestock and Meat, Australia](#) (cat. no. 7218.0.55.001). A further two reports were issued in the following week.

As well as its regular work, the Centre is currently undertaking a benchmark Land Management Practices survey of land owners in the catchments of the Great Barrier Reef. Data from the survey will be used by government to determine changes in agricultural land management practices that may be impacting on the reef.

For more information on the activities of the Environment and Agriculture BSC call (03) 6222 5804 or email david.brereton@abs.gov.au.

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TABLEBUILDER NOW AVAILABLE!

New Census product TableBuilder was released on 28 August 2009 on the ABS website.

TableBuilder is similar to CDATA Online, but is bigger, faster and better. Users can create large tables of up to five million cells, make faster selection of data items and have greater flexibility in combining Census variables of interest.

Unlike the topic based CDATA Online, TableBuilder provides access to all variables contained in the Census Output Record File. Users can choose to count persons, families or dwellings, and the product is designed to provide clients with the highest degree of freedom in selecting and combining data items and the geographical areas most suited to their needs.

TableBuilder is a subscription only service and costs \$1,655 (incl. GST).

This price is an individual user price for a single Census reference cycle. Each registration remains valid for the life of the product and includes access to training and ongoing help-line support.

To register, download the [Application and Undertaking Form](#) (Adobe Acrobat .pdf).

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TRANSFER OF INFORMATION CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Improved access and growth in the availability of free statistics on the ABS website has contributed to a reduced demand for information consultancy services supported by the Tasmanian Office.

From 1 July 2009, in order that Tasmanian based clients retain access to statistical expertise which guarantees quality and responsive solutions in line with the ABS Service Delivery Charter, the Tasmanian Information Consultancy service has been transferred to the New South Wales Office of the ABS.

The new service can be contacted on 1300 135 070.

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FEBRUARY AND MARCH POPULAR MONTHS FOR MARRIAGES IN TASMANIA IN 2008

There were 2,685 marriages registered in Tasmania during 2008.

The month in which the most marriages were celebrated was March, with 466.

This was equivalent to 93.2 for each of the five Saturdays in that month.

While the total number of registrations in February was 94 fewer than in March, the number

per Saturday was much the same with 93.0 marriages celebrated for each of the four Saturdays in the month.

Further information is available in [Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 2008](#) (cat. no. 3310.0), which can be found on the ABS website.

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SPOTLIGHT ON CRIME

Tasmania Police initiated action against 13,255 offenders during 2007-08

Statistics have been released for the first time about Tasmania Police proceedings against offenders.

[Recorded Crime - Offenders, Selected states and territories, 2007-08](#) (cat. no. 4519.0) is a new publication that details the number and characteristics of alleged offenders aged 10 years and over for selected states and territories. It complements the existing ABS publications relating to victims, criminal courts and corrective services.

During 2007-08 Tasmania Police proceeded against 13,255 alleged offenders.

Young people aged between 10-19 years accounted for 31.3% of all offenders proceeded against by police.

Over three quarters of all offenders (77.5%) were male.

The most common principal offences for offenders (aged 10 years and over) were:

- Public order offences (3,308 offenders)
- Acts intended to cause injury (2,397 offenders)
- Illicit drug offences (1,877 offenders)
- Theft and related offences (1,285 offenders)

More details are available in [Recorded Crime - Offenders, Selected states and territories, 2007-08](#) (cat. no. 4519.0) available for free download from the ABS website.

Fall in the number of recorded crime victims in Tasmania

National statistics released on 4 June 2009 include information about incidents of victimisation for a selected range of criminal offences that came to the attention of Tasmania police and were recorded by them in the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008. The statistics provide information about the characteristics of the victim and the nature of the criminal incidents.

Depending on the type of offence, a victim in the recorded crime collection can be a person, a premises, an organisation or a motor vehicle. A person reporting a crime with multiple offences in the same incident may either be counted multiple times, or may be counted only once, depending on the types of offences committed during the incident. For example, a victim who was robbed and abducted in the same incident would be counted separately as a

victim under the offences of robbery and kidnapping/abduction. Conversely, a victim of multiple assaults in the same incident would be counted only once as the offences committed fall within the same offence group.

There were no incidents recorded by Tasmanian Police in 2008 involving victims of Homicides and related offences or Kidnapping/abduction, This compares with 13 recorded victims of Homicides and related offences and 3 recorded victims of Kidnapping/abduction in 2007.

Compared to 2007, the number of victims recorded by Tasmania police in 2008 decreased for Assault, Sexual assault, Kidnapping/abduction, Murder, Robbery, and Unlawful entry with intent. The offence categories recording the largest declines were Unarmed robbery (down 37%), Armed robbery (down 33%) and Sexual assault (down 23%). The only category of criminal offence for which there was an increase in the number of recorded victims was Motor vehicle theft (up 10%).

A data cube with the counts of victims by offence categories recorded by Tasmania Police for each of the years 1999 to 2008 can be accessed by visiting the ABS website and downloading publication tables 3.1-3.8 from the Download tab for [Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2008](#) (cat. no. 4510.0).

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UPCOMING FREE SEMINARS

Our seminar program presented by the Tasmanian National Statistical Service (NSS), formerly known as the Community of Users and Producers of Statistics (CUPS), is free and well-attended.

NSS Seminars coming up in the next few months include:

- **The LIST - November 2009:** An officer from DPIPWE will talk about the LIST (Land Information System Tasmania): a whole of government service that delivers integrated land information online. Time and venue to be advised closer to the date.

If you wish to attend or want more information please email tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au.

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How Can We Help



HOW CAN WE HELP

General statistical inquiries
Statistical training
Statistical literacy: data awareness

GENERAL STATISTICAL INQUIRIES

We can help you to make a more informed decision...

Our consultants are available to discuss your information needs, and assist you to obtain the data which will best meet your requirements.

A range of published data is available free of charge on our website and more detailed data can be tailored to your requirements as part of our priced information consultancy service. Contact our consultants who will discuss your needs in detail and provide you with an obligation free quote.

Phone: 1300 135 070 (between 8.30am-5.00pm EST)

Email: client.services@abs.gov.au

Fax: 1300 135 211

Post: Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney, 2001

[Online Inquiry Form](#)

To find out more about how we can customise data tailored to meet your needs check out our [Information Consultancy Services](#) brochure online.

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STATISTICAL TRAINING

[Our training programs](#) are conducted by ABS staff with expertise in designing questionnaires, analysing data and managing the survey process. The courses teach practical skills by involving participants in individual and group exercises. In addition, courses can be tailored to meet the specific needs of your organisation. We also hold regular seminars which may focus on statistical developments, publications, trends or issues.

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STATISTICAL LITERACY: DATA AWARENESS

In today's information-rich society, we encounter statistical information on a daily basis, ranging from unemployment rates, retail figures and cancer rates, to football ladders and cricket scores. Statistics tell interesting stories and enable us to make sense of the world. Statistics are essential for research, planning and decision-making purposes.

There are several concepts that recur throughout the literature on statistical literacy. These fall into four key areas and can be considered in a practical manner as 'criteria' on which to base statistical literacy:

- Data awareness
- The ability to understand statistical concepts
- The ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate statistical information
- The ability to communicate statistical information and understandings

In this issue, we will focus on aspects of data awareness.

An important aspect of statistical literacy is understanding what makes data trustworthy and reliable. Informed judgements can be made about the quality of the data and whether they are fit for purpose if users have a sound understanding of what the data show, how the data should be interpreted, any limitations of the data, and what pitfalls may arise when interpreting the data. Consider:

- Are the data from a reliable/credible source?
- What was the intended purpose of the collection results?
- Is the information representative of the total population?
- How high are the relative standard errors? Can the data be considered reliable if the relative standard error is high?
- How recent are the data? Is this the latest information available?
- Are you looking for a snapshot of a point in time or a trend over time?
- Are other data sources available for comparisons? Are the datasets comparable?
- What metadata (quality statements, explanatory notes, etc.) sits around the data? Most ABS products have an Explanatory Notes tab containing useful information on scope, concepts and definitions, survey design and estimation.

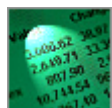
Data can come from a variety of sources. Be aware that some data may not necessarily be fit for your purpose:

- **Pre-existing data** may have been produced for a specific purpose. The population that the data are based on may differ from the population now under scrutiny, or the sampling method may not necessarily be appropriate for the current study.
- **Secondary data** may have been used in a selective way to suit the purpose of a particular study or report. As a general rule, consult the original or primary data source wherever possible.
- **Data generated from observation and/or experimentation** can be influenced by the type of questions asked and the manner in which they are asked. A sample should be representative of the population. If there are limitations with the sampling procedure, it is important that these are acknowledged as this can influence the validity and reliability of results.
- **Anecdotal evidence** often relates to a specific event and is generally not representative. While it may be useful when describing a particular case study, care should be taken when making conclusions about the broader population.
- **Biased data** can result from the deliberate or inadvertent introduction of bias into survey samples. Sources of bias include:
 - sample bias (was the size of the sample appropriate, how were the respondents selected?);
 - response errors (people may misinterpret the questions and give inaccurate answers);
 - missing data (people may not respond at all or give incomplete information);
 - responses may be influenced by the wording of the questions;
 - responses may be influenced by the interviewer;
 - groups with a vested interest may generate data that are biased towards their organisation's position, while data found to contradict that position may not necessarily be forthcoming.

In upcoming issues of Tasmanian Statistical News we will discuss other statistical literacy concepts in more detail. Meanwhile, if you would like to know more about statistical literacy and its relevance to you, check out the article: **What is statistical literacy and why is it important to be statistically literate?** as featured in Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators (cat. no. 1307.6).

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Recent Releases



RECENT RELEASES

SELECTED RECENT RELEASES

27/08/2009 Recorded Crime - Offenders, Selected states and territories, 2007-08 (cat. no. 4519.0)

This publication presents for the first time statistics relating to offenders who were proceeded against by police during the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, for all states and territories, except Western Australia. These statistics describe the characteristics of the offender, including their age, sex, Indigenous status, principal offence, how often they have been proceeded against by police within the reference period, as well as a count of proceedings that may result in court actions.

20/08/2009 Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2007-08 (cat. no. 6523.0)

Provides estimates of income received by households, classified by various characteristics of the households and their residents (eg income quintile, principal source of household income, family composition, tenure type, age, employment status). Improvements have been made to the measurements of income presented in the publication, in line with international statistical standards, to incorporate: non-cash benefits provided to employees, termination payments and lump sum workers compensation payments; and to improve the coverage of bonuses and irregular overtime payments and inter-household transfers. This publication also includes, for the first time, summary child care usage and cost information.

11/08/2009 Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2008 (cat. no. 3235.0)

Contains the estimated resident population by age (in five-year groups up to 85 and over) and sex for each Statistical Local Area, Statistical Subdivision, and Statistical Division in Tasmania at 30 June of the reference year. Estimates for Local Government and other areas using Statistical Local Areas as a base can be derived from these estimates. Estimates for Postal Areas and for Population Census Collection Districts are available on request.

28/07/09 Migration, Australia, 2007-08 (cat. no. 3412.0)

This publication brings together statistics on international migration into and out of Australia, interstate migration within Australia and information on overseas-born residents of Australia. Australia's migration is described in the context of the Government's migration program and in comparison with international migration experienced by other countries.

09/07/2009 Information paper: Changes to International Trade in Goods Statistics - Countries and Ports, July 2009 (cat. no. 5368.0.55.013)

This information paper summarises changes to the country and port classifications used for the release of ABS international merchandise trade statistics. These changes result, in part from the implementation of the 2006 United Nations Location codes and in part from analysis of overseas and Australian ports data. This paper describes the timing of the introduction of new country and port codes in export and import statistics and the changes made to classifications.

30/06/2009 Information Paper: Introduction of the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index, Australia, 2009 (cat no. 6466.0)

This Information Paper provides an overview of the new Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI), including how it is calculated and its relationship to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI provides a general measure of changes in prices of consumer goods and services purchased by Australian households and is used for a variety of purposes, such as in the development and analysis of government economic policy, the adjustment of some government benefits, and individual contracts. The new index will more specifically reflect changes in the living costs of pensioners and other households receiving income support from the government. The ABS will publish the PBLCI quarterly commencing on 24 August 2009.

30/06/2009 Australian Social Trends, June 2009 (cat. no. 4102.0)

Presents statistical analysis and commentary on a wide range of current social issues. New articles are released quarterly and are organised into eight chapters, representing the following broad areas of interest: population; family and community; health; education and training; work; economic resources; and housing, as well as a chapter of articles covering other areas of social concern. Each chapter is supported by a set of summary tables including key social indicators which provide an overview of social change over the past decade, as well as how social conditions differ across Australian states and territories. A set of international tables also compares Australia with 17 other nations.

25/06/2009 ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, Revision 1 (cat. no. 1220.0)

This product is the first update to The Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) First Edition and includes minor changes to the classification structure and definitional changes for some occupations. It comprises an explanation of the conceptual basis of the classification, the classification structure and definitions for all levels of the classification (major, sub-major, minor and unit groups and occupations). The primary purpose of this product is to aid in the interpretation of ABS and Statistics New Zealand occupation statistics classified to ANZSCO.

24/06/2009 Information Paper: Update on ANZSIC 2006 Implementation for Labour Price Index, 2009 (cat. no. 6345.0.55.001)

The Labour Price Index measures changes in the price of labour services resulting from market pressures, and is unaffected by changes in the quality or quantity of work performed. It is unaffected by changes in the composition of the labour force, hours worked, or changes in characteristics of employees (e.g. work performance). Information about the wage price indexes has been released for each quarter since September 1997. Individual indexes are published for various combinations of state and territory, public and private sectors, and

broad industry groups.

18/06/2009 Environmental views and behaviour, 2007-08 (2nd issue) (cat. no. 4626.0.55.001)

Contains data on people's views and practices on environmental issues, from the Environmental Views and Behaviour Survey conducted throughout Australia as part of the 2007-08 Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS). Topics in the survey include; environmental concerns, personal energy and water use, waste collection and disposal and environmental involvement. This second release cross-references the environmental data with a range of demographic information including age, sex, country of origin and income.

04/06/2009 Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2008 (cat. no. 4510.0)

Contains uniform national statistics relating to victims of crime for a selected range of offences that have become known to and recorded by police. The statistics provide indicators of the level and nature of recorded crime as it relates to victims in Australia and measures change over time. This publication provides a breakdown of the selected offences by: victim characteristics (age and sex); the nature of the incident (weapon use and location); and outcome of police investigations at 30 days. These data are also available by state and territory. The collection also provides for selected state and territories information about the relationship of the offender to victim and the Indigenous status of a victim.

23/04/2009 Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2007-08 (cat. no. 3218.0)

Contains the estimated resident population for each Statistical Local Area, Statistical Subdivision and Statistical Division in Australia at 30 June of the reference year. Estimates for local government and other areas using Statistical Local Areas as a base can be derived from these estimates.

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Disclaimer

Please note that the ABS has implemented a handheld stylesheet that removes images. This enables us to provide you fast loading pages while on a handheld device. Please note that as a result, some graphs and other images may be removed and to see the full statistical product you should visit the full version of the ABS website.

About this Release

Tasmanian Statistical News is a quarterly electronic newsletter providing information about new developments including projects, surveys, outposted ABS officers, recent statistical releases, seminars, training and reviews.

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